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lic priest-hood, who certainly have from their numbers, at least, as strong a claim to such a payment as any other. Some may call such a system lenient; I am inclined to denominate it artful. I give more credit to Lord Castle-reagh for his policy than his justice. The Anti-burgher Synod, at a meeting held in Belfast, lately, have refused to accept the *regium donum* on the terms of submitting to the classification, and other conditions coupled with this measure. K.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

REPORT OF THE MARYBOROUGH CHARITABLE SOCIETY FROM 23d MARCH 1808, TILL 21st MARCH 1809.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
TO amount of Subscriptions	38	15	1
To amount of collections made in town . . . . .	48	15	4½
To amount of a fine, levied by a magistrate . . . . .	5	0	0
To amount of loan instalments, paid till 20th March . . .	137	8	1½
To amount of blanket instalment, paid till 20th March	38	15	9½
To amount of ready cash, received for blankets . . .	14	12	6
To balance due to treasurer, on settling the year's account, 22d March, 1809	105	0	5
	<u>£408</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>3½</u>

By 507 families relieved from 16th August till 20th March; in which were 1199 persons, to whom relief was afforded for one week, to the amount of . . . . .	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
72 persons relieved with the loan, to the amount of	237	0	6
115½ pair of blankets* purchased . . . . .	106	17	4
By salary to Secretary, Stationary, Stamps, &c.&c.	25	1	0½
	<u>£408</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>3½</u>

*State of the fund, 22d March, 1809.*

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Instalments due on loan . . .	104	12	7
Ditto, on blankets . . . . .	45	18	1
26 pair of blankets on hands	28	3	4
	<u>£178</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>0</u>
To balance due to Treasurer	105	9	5
Strength	73	→	→

\* Of the above, 76 pairs were sold to 74 persons and paid for by instalments and 13 one half pairs for ready cash.

The foregoing statement having appeared in one of the Dublin papers, a letter was written on behalf of the Proprietors of the Belfast Monthly Magazine, to the Managers of the Society, requesting an explanation of their plan, in order to lay it before our Readers, it being our wish, by giving accounts of well managed institutions of this kind, to stimulate other places by example. We have been favoured with the following obliging letter from a gentleman at Maryborough, with an explanatory statement of the report of their respectable and praiseworthy institution.

SIR,

I send as I promised (though I have too long deferred it) a sketch explanatory of the system of our Society, in Maryborough. As you seemed to wish for its publication, I have studied to word it briefly; I flatter myself that every thing almost necessary has been stated.

I leave it, as you will perceive, in great measure to speak for itself, but I think it speaks clearly. Our success, in a poor town, meeting with opposition from bigotry, and receiving scarce any support from those best able to afford it, should tend to encourage exertion in other places. I have no hesitation in assuring you, that be the experiment tried when it may, if tried with zealous perseverance, that it will succeed, and I know of no means so admirable of managing money for the purposes of charity.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE REPORT OF THE MARYBOROUGH CHARITABLE SOCIETY.

It will be necessary, as introductory of the report of the Maryborough Charitable Society, to state the object which the society has proposed to itself to hold in view, for the amelioration of the condition of the industrious, the relief of the poor, and the improvement of the town itself.

The first object proposed, is the promotion of the spiritual welfare of the people, by friendly exhortation on the part of the Visitors, by circulating the scriptures and by the encouragement of a daily, and a Sunday school.

A schoolmaster who has been instructed (at the school, in school-street, Dublin) in Lancaster's system of education, has been engaged by the Society, and has established a school, under their patronage, for which he receives for this year a gratuity of £20 and may be farther encouraged as circumstances may admit. The society reserve to themselves the privilege of sending fifteen children (chiefly, if not altogether, from the Sunday school) to be educated gratis, and assert the right of inspecting it, and giving directions in matters relating to its economy.

A Sunday school was established long before the existence of this society. It is not too hazardous an assertion to make, that however superior it may be to most, it is inferior to few either in England or Ireland. Its chief excellence is owing to the zealous, though gratuitous exertions of the teachers. It is the intention of the society to appropriate part of their funds to aid this school. It consists of about one hundred and ninety children.

I shall not enter farther into detail on this object, as it is a matter in general exciting little interest.

The second main object proposed by the society, is the temporal welfare of the poor, &c.

This object is classed under several heads.

1. The affording relief in times of sickness.

2. The loan of small sums, to be repaid by instalments.

3. The sale of blankets, frize, straw, flax-wheels, implements of trade, &c. on loan, to be repaid likewise by instalments.

4. The filling the holes and mending the ways leading to, and about the dwellings of the poor, and the promotion of cleanliness by premiums.

1. The town is divided into four districts, to each of which, visitors, male and female are appointed, whose duty it is to attend when called upon, and where they deem it necessary to advance any sum not exceeding three shillings and three pence a week, to any one family, unless by special permission of the committee.

This money so advanced, is repaid

to the head visitor (one of which is appointed to each district, as the organ of communication between the committee and the visitors) on his producing the visitor's weekly report-book, in which the name of the persons relieved, the number in family, and the relief given, are entered with any remarks that may occur, and submitting it to the weekly committee, by whose chairman it should be signed.

The persons proposed for relief, are the poor housekeepers of the town, who are aged, sick or maimed, and strangers in case of sickness. Relief is never allowed to professed beggars, except in cases of necessity.

It is farther the duty of the visitors to go through their districts once a week and collect sums, however small, from house to house, which are delivered in to the committee. These collections (which in this small and poor town, produced, £48 15 4½ within the year) are specially appropriated to the relief of the sick poor. The subscriptions of the members, donations, &c. are applied to the other purposes of the society.

#### 2. Charitable loan.

Any person requiring the loan of money, leaves with the secretary a note stating the amount of the sum he wants, the time for which he wants it, his residence, and the names and residence of two persons who offer to become his securities. This note is submitted to the weekly committee by the chairman, and if the principal and securities are approved of, the sum (sometimes the whole requested, sometimes less) is ordered by him to be lent. This is a warrant to the treasurer to advance the sum approved of, on the borrower passing a joint note with his two securities to repay the same (generally within twenty-four weeks) by weekly instalments, with legal interest. No loan to drunkards, &c.

#### 3. Sale of blankets, frize, &c.

The society being but yet in its infancy (not having been quite two years established) have proceeded no farther on this head, than the sale of blankets. In no respect perhaps have their labours proved more useful, than in this, there having been no less

than one hundred and five pair of blankets added to the stock of this town and its vicinity, and purchased chiefly by persons who would but for this advantageous method held out to them, probably never have obtained them.

The price of the blankets is considered as a loan, and the person proposing for them offers his securities and the business is transacted in the same manner as if for the loan.

4. Filing the holes, and mending the ways, &c.

Nothing has as yet been done in this matter, but it has been considered that the health as well as the comfort of the people will be much improved by attention to it, and that premiums offered within given limits, for the most cleanly and best constructed houses under certain conditions and restrictions may prove highly conducive to health and cleanliness.

With regard to the general system of the institution: it is placed under the direction of an open committee, constituted of all subscribers of half a guinea a year and upwards, and subscribers of five guineas a year for life.

Two general meetings are held half yearly, who hold controul over the proceedings of the weekly committee.

The duty of the committee is to receive the weekly collections of money, to order payment to the district visitors, on examining their reports, to lend out money (generally in sums from one to ten pounds) to sell blankets, &c. to inspect the accounts and to give directions relative to the daily school.

The officers consist of a treasurer without, and a secretary with a salary of £20 a year. The secretary collects the instalments and transacts all the weighty business.

This institution was formed chiefly on the model of one in Cashel the plan of which was communicated by his Grace, the Archbishop of Cashel. Notwithstanding the insignificance of its funds (to which must be attributed the delay in bringing to practice several of the objects proposed) the Maryborough society has already

proved the value of the system; perhaps there exists no mode whatever (at least none acknowledged) by which small means can effect so great objects as that which this system offers.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

AN ACCOUNT OF ISLAND MAGEE,  
TAKEN IN 1809.

ISLAND MAGEE is situated in the S. E. part of the county of Antrim. The west end is about four English miles from Carrickfergus; it is six miles in length, and near two in breadth. It is a peninsula, bounded on the south by Carrickfergus lough, on the north by that of Larne, on the east by the Irish channel, and on the west it is joined to the main land by a marshy isthmus of about a mile in breadth. The land is mostly arable, and well cultivated, producing abundance of wheat, corn, beans, &c. which generally meet a preference in market. There are, however, some fields,

‘With blossom’d furze, unprofitably gay.’

The soil is a deep clay, with limestone in many parts, some of which they export to Scotland, and the opposite coast of the county of Down. The face of the country is pleasantly diversified with little hills and valleys; yet, from the almost total want of planting, it has but an indifferent appearance at a distance. The Marquis of Donegall is lord paramount of the island. The present landlord is Lord Dungannon, a very indulgent one. Indeed, I have often thought one might easily form a pretty correct opinion of the landlord, by taking a general view of his tenantry; and no where in Ireland do the houses of the farmers exhibit a greater plenty of homely fare than in Island Magee. The inhabitants live mostly by agriculture and fishing; they are robust, and of a ruddy complexion, speaking very broad, with somewhat of a Scottish accent: to be brief, in both persons and manners they somewhat resemble the inhabitants of North Britain, which may in some degree be accounted for by their remote situation obstructing their marriages with the interior. The inhabitants are supposed to